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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/549,579
Response to OA dated April 22, 2008

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 8-9, 11-14 and 17-18 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the Applicants regard as their invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 15 and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated April 22, 2008.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over DE 4409607 in view of Gileta (U.S. Patent No. 5,113,882). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present claim amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 15-16 have been canceled, therefore the rejection is now moot.

In the Office Action, Claim 22 is indicated as allowed and Claims 2-5, 8-9, 11-14 and 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2-5, 8-9, 11-14 and 18 have been rewritten in independent form and removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 2-5, 8-9, 11-14, 17-18 and 22, as amended, are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early

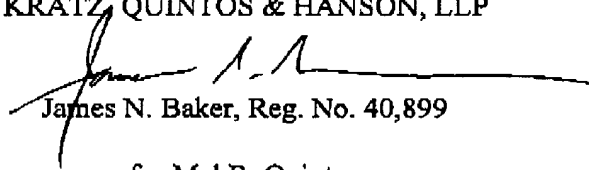
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date, is requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosure: Amendment Transmittal